

14th ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON MENTAL HEALTH & SPIRITUALITY
By Karen Zarsadiaz-Ige, LACDMH Public Information Officer



On Thursday, May 28, 2015, the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) hosted the 14th annual Conference on Mental Health & Spirituality at the Los Angeles Convention Center in downtown Los Angeles.

Funded by the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), the event was open to clinicians, clients, health providers, spiritual care providers, family members and clergy as an opportunity to learn about the integration of healing elements that spiritual practice provides. More than 500 people registered for this year's event.



An opening blessing from American Indian Changing Spirits Drum Group kicked off the conference, followed by an invocation from Ven. Lama Nima. A welcome was provided by Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Second District; LACDMH Director Marvin Southard, DSW; and Wesley Rod, MP, MPH, Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Substance Abuse Prevention and Control.

Hanumantha Damerla, MD, presented “Hinduism, Mental Health and Spirituality; An Integrated Perspective” during the morning key note session. The Rev. Ronald David, MD, served as the afternoon keynote speaker with his presentation, “Love, its Meaning, Manifestations and Relationships to Health”. The day concluded with a Buddhist blessing chant from the His Lai Temple. There were also workshops held during the all-day conference, including discussions about Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, yoga and spirituality.

